

**Regular Meeting
Menominee Language and Culture Code Commission
March 9, 2010 @ 3:30 pm
MLCCC LaMotte Lake Site**

1. Opening Prayer was said by Warren Wilber Sr.
2. Chairman Warren Wilber Sr. called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Warren Wilber Sr., Marie Floring, Davey Jean Reiter, Margaret Snow, Joey Awonohopay, Sherri LaChapelle, and Dr. Verna Fowler. MEMBERS ABSENT: Lorene Pocan (excused). ALSO PRESENT: Fay Annamitta, John Reiter, Karen Washinawatok (Director), Lindzey Grall (Legal Services), Sara Wescott (Tribal News), and Natasha Miller (recorder).

3. Approval of Minutes dated January 12, 2010-Regular.

Page one, second paragraph, "Keynote" was changed to "Kenote"

Page three, third paragraph, "personal" was changed to "personnel".

Page four, first paragraph, "a" was changed to "at".

Motion was made by Marie Floring to approve the Menominee Language and Culture Code Commission minutes of January 12, 2010 with corrections. Second was by Margaret Snow. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 4-for, 0-opposed, 2-abstentions (Fowler and Awonohopay), and 1-absent (Pocan).

4. Informational.

(Submitted in the meeting packets was a memorandum from Gary Schuettepelz regarding a survey done to evaluate the safety and sanitation of the facility, and a flyer for the Winter Round House.)

Joey Awonohopay questioned that in the Memorandum from Gary Schuettepelz, does the corrected action need to come out of the MLCC budget.

Karen Washinawatok stated she spoke to Jennifer Gauthier and the contractor will correct some of it and as the money becomes available in the budget the rest can be fixed.

Chairman Wilber asked what in the building will not be fixed. Karen Washinawatok stated the stairs will probably not get fixed and we will just have to keep getting cited for them. The basement steps are used by Mawaw Ceseneyah and not the elders.

Dr. Fowler stated that there are two sets of standards to follow. She gets cited on a set of stairs at the college from Gary Schuettpelez. He follows a different set standards then the contractor does.

Sherri LaChapelle asked when you get cited is it a fine. Karen responded by saying that it is a written report that gets put into your file.

Thursday, March 11, 2010 is the last night for the winter round house.

5. Presentation of One Year Provisional Certification- Fay Annamitta.

Chairman Wilber presented Fay Annamitta with her one year provisional certification. Menominee Nation News reporter Sara Wescott was present for pictures and comments.

Fay Annamitta thanked certain individuals for helping her with her certification.

6. Motion to approve recertification for Margaret Snow.

Karen Washinawatok informed the Commission that Margaret Snow passed both her oral and written test and is ready for her fiver year renewal.

Motion was made by Dr. Verna Fowler to recommend to the Menominee Tribal Legislature to recertify Margaret Snow for her Five Year Provisional license. Second was by Marie Floring. All those in favor signify by saying. Motion carried: 5-for, 0-opposed, 1-abstention (Snow), and 1-absent (Pocan).

7. Motion to accept resignation from Commissioner Lorene Pocan.

Dr. Fowler stated that she believes Lorene Pocan has a lot to offer and doesn't like to accept people leaving. She understands and talked to Lorene about her reasons. She suggested that since we are revising the code that we add an Honorary Board so we can still recognize elders and past members of the Commission for their expertise. She doesn't want to see them cut off and shut out.

Chairman Wilber would like to see a letter sent to Lorene Pocan thanking her for her time on the Commission.

Margaret Snow stated that she has a lot of good memories from Lorene and she fits the category to be a person who has lived the right way.

Motion was made by Joey Awonohopay to accept the resignation of Lorene Pocan as one of our beloved Commissioners. Second was by Dr. Verna Fowler. All those in favor signify by aye. Motion carried: 6-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 1-absent (Pocan).

8. Motion to post for the two vacant seats on the Commission.

(In the meeting packets were section 119 of Language and Culture Code, Ordinance #80-6 Posting Procedure, and the draft copy of the notice to apply.)

Discussion was held that the last two members were not appointed according to Ordinance 96-22. The Ordinance states that that the letters of interest are turned into the Commission and the Commission shall appoint the individual and forward to the Menominee Tribal Legislature for concurrence.

Joey Awonohopay questioned who the Commission was looking for one elder and one teacher?

Karen Washinawatok stated according to the Code the Commission already has the four teachers, so the Commission should be looking for two fluent speakers, which would be elders.

Joey Awonohopay commented that as it is stated in Section 119 and with no disrespect, according to the code the remaining four Commissioners shall be certified Menominee Language teachers. The fourth teacher is the President of the college. He asked the question if it should be one more Menominee language teacher added then.

Chairman Wilber stated the selections will take place according to the guidelines of the Menominee Language and Culture Code.

Motion was made by Margaret Snow to post the two vacant seats on the Menominee Language and Culture Commission according to Section 119 (Ordinance 96-22) and interested individual send a letter of interest to the Commission and the Commission shall exemplify characteristics of sobriety, respect, kindness, generosity, fortitude and wisdom and shall be knowledgeable of certification procedures and be skilled in consensual decision making. I feel this is very important. Second was by Joey Awaonohopay. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion Carried: 6-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 1-absent (Pocan).

9. Amendments to Ordinance # 96-22- Menominee Language and Culture Code: Discussion/Action.

The Commission started Code review at page 9 section 115, Part 2.

Joey Awonohopay commented on the testing It's now called assessment in the Education field. He talked with individuals from different Tribes and asked if anyone from our area has ever attended the assessment training in Minnesota. He felt that maybe that is something we could look into. It will allow the Language teachers to properly asses the students and put them in the proper language level when they reach high school.

Karen suggested bringing an instructor to the reservation for all the language teachers; it might be more cost effective rather then sending certain teachers.

Chairman Wilber asked what happens when assessments are done in the classroom.

Joey stated that his assessment involves around 250 different questions that he asks each of his students. This assessment is done to determine where the students need to be in their level of language. They had many parents upset that their children were sitting in beginning language classes. This will allow them to place advanced students in higher levels. They would like to incorporate this through high school so when a student reaches that grade level they can be placed in advanced language courses as well. At the high school right now if you are a freshman then you are automatically put in a language I class. This year they had a few students able to jump into the language I or II, but it took a lot of work going to the school board and dealing with the parents, he does not want to see that happen every year.

Karen Washinawatok stated as a school board member she checked into the issue with Leslie Shawanokasic and Wendell Waukau and they said right now it is a scheduling problem, unless they fill Ronco up with eight hours of full language then the levels will stay with the grade.

Chairman Wilber stated that this could cause students to have a lack of interest in language if they are repeating everything and not getting challenged.

Joey Awonohopay stated this training in Minnesota could help them with the problems they are facing and it would not hurt to look into it.

Sherri LaChapelle suggested striking "Executive" from paragraph 3 of part B. The Commission agreed upon the change.

Joey Awonohopay questioned the testing on demand. If the license came from the Commission do they have the right to revoke a license?

Karen stated that they have the right to revoke their Tribal license, but not their State license. Dr. Fowler asked how they receive their State license. Karen stated it is called a Native Culture license and they have to obtain a written approval from the Chairman of the Tribe. The Chairman of the Tribe does take recommendations from the Commission

and the individual usually has to be tribally certified. The state license requires six credits every five years and the cost is \$100.

Dr. Fowler questioned the testing on demand, as a fairness issue we should give them time to review before a test is done.

Joey Awonohopay stated that once certified you should be able to test on demand.

Lindzey Grall stated that according to the code a certified letter will go out when testing needs to be done so there will be time before a test will take place.

Dr. Fowler asked if this is seen as a negative action then can an appeal take place.

Lindzey Grall stated that according to the code if they were to not pass their test they would be required to obtain additional training. It's not stated to read that their license would be revoked if you didn't pass.

Karen Washinawatok stated that her classrooms observations are done to help the teachers and she is there to support them and not look for the bad things.

Joey Awonohopay expressed his concern towards having PH level doctors come into his classroom. He doesn't think that person should be assessing him on how he speaks his language. He can assess his classroom management, but this person does not speak the language. He has expressed his concern to the administrator and he believes a Commission member should come in and help assess the classroom as well. Margaret Snow stated that Karen comes along into her classroom when she is being assessed. Joey will inform Robert Tucker of the issue.

Dr. Fowler stated that she likes what she is hearing, but when read it sounds punitive and negative.

Lindzey Grall added the following wording in the code to make it sound more positive:

Part 4 reads, "The Menominee Language and Culture Commission shall conduct random observations in classrooms where the Menominee Language is taught to assist teachers and provide feedback on ways to improve the classroom learning experience for students." The Commission agreed upon the change.

Part 3 additional wording was added. "To insure all students adequately learn the Menominee language the Menominee Language and Culture Commission also has the authority to demand that any teacher certified pursuant to this ordinance take a grammar or verbal test upon notice." The Commission agreed upon the change.

The Commission ended review in page 10, Section C, In-service Training.

10. Director's Report.

(Submitted in the meeting packets were the monthly reports for January and February.)

Karen Washinawatok informed the Commission that testing was done on the water and proper culligan treatment will be brought in for the facility. Dr. Macaulay has the drafts ready for the Intermediate dictionary and will be forwarded for review.

11. Other Business.

Joey Awonohopay informed the Commission that last year he took his students on an outing to Lower Bass Lake to go fishing. Todd James from Conservation came out and informed him that he could be cited for having non-natives in the forest. The non-natives were teachers who volunteered to come along and help chaperone the students. Two native members from the school called and reported non-natives were out harvesting. He spoke with a few members of the Legislature and they thought about drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so the teachers will be able to chaperone the outing. He asked for the support of the Commission when the MOU is brought forward.

Karen Washinawatok asked who the MOU would be between. Joey stated that he believed it would be between the Tribe and the select non-native individuals. Joey also added that he asked for volunteers, but they usually have to go through a background check and some of them look to be paid. These teachers have such a bond with the children and are seen on a whole different level.

Sherri LaChapelle also added that the teachers will not be taking any fish or rice home; it all goes to the school and the students.

Chairman Wilber asked if they ever thought about going to Legend Lake to avoid situations. Joey stated he liked the atmosphere and the scenery of taking the kids to Bass Lake.

Dr. Fowler asked how often they go. Joey stated they go twice a year, but did not go on their fall fishing trip due to the situation they are in with the non-native teachers.

Davey Jean Reiter expressed her concern and informed the Commission that she is not in favor of the MOU.

Margaret Snow informed the Commission that the Keshena Primary School is having problems with the behavior of their students. They are looking for speakers who are willing to come in and can get through to the students about respect. She asked if the Commission had any suggestions for speakers.

12. Adjournment.

Motion made by Margaret Snow to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Dr. Verna Fowler. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 6-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 1-absent (Pocan).

Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Natasha Miller, Transcriber/Recorder
Recording Clerk – Receptionist, Chairman's Office